



STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



Kuipers' Bill Passes Transportation Committee

The Senate will soon take up legislation that would target repeat offenders of child safety-seat laws. Senate Bill (SB) 491 would increase the fine when someone previously ticketed for violating Michigan's child-restraint laws is again cited. The fine would go from \$10 to \$100 for people who fail to properly restrain a child younger than 16. Companion legislation in the House of Representatives would help low-income parents buy child seats with funds raised from the increased fines. Motor-vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental death for children up to age 15 according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. The statistics for 2002 show that 49 children younger than 15 died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan. The Senate Committee on Transportation recommended approval of these bills.

Michigan Manual Ordering Information

The Michigan Legislative Council and the Legislative Service Bureau are pleased to announce the publication of the 2005-2006 Michigan Manual. This state government yearbook, which was first produced in 1836, provides a wealth of information on the operations of each of the three branches of Michigan government. It presents a wide range of materials, encompassing historical information, biographies of elected officials, profiles of the state universities, primary and general election results, county officers, census data, and proposed constitutional amendments. Sometimes referred to as the "Red Book," the Michigan Manual profiles state agencies and many of the processes through which the people of this state govern themselves. This is a unique tool that provides access to information on virtually all aspects of state government, and it remains a valuable resource for students of Michigan.

Copies of the Michigan Manual are for sale for \$25.00 each, and may be ordered through the Legislative Service Bureau Business Office, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536. Prepayment is required, along with a completed copy of a Bureau publication order form. Please visit <http://legislature.mi.gov>.

Veterans' Legislation Passes Committee

The Senate Seniors' and Veterans' Affairs Committee sent legislation to the full Senate this week that will set necessary safeguards for veterans' memorials on state land. Senate Bills 881 and 882 will establish a Veterans' Memorial Property Commission and a companion property act to oversee and protect these state military monuments. Michigan continues to draft model legislation as no other state in the nation has such a law.

Senator Kuipers' Introduces Alternative Fuel Bill

This week Senator Kuipers introduced Senate Bill (SB) 1075, which seeks to require the state to have a fueling station in place for state-owned vehicles that can use alternative fuels. Other bills in the package have been designed to research the use of ethanol, bio-diesel, and other alternative fuels. SB 1074 would allow E85 to be taxed at 12 cents a gallon. SB 1076 would establish a state grant program to help service station owners add or convert to alternative fuel stations, while SB 1077 creates the Fuels of the Future Commission. In addition, SB 1078 would create up to ten renaissance zones across Michigan to deal with alternative fuels and SB 1079 would set strict quality control standards for bio-diesel and hydrogen and require diesel fuel testing in Michigan. This legislative package (Senate Bills 1074-1079) is awaiting action by the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy, of which Senator Kuipers is vice-chair.